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*Twenty-second Annual Report of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor.* Boston, 1892. — 579 pp.

A tenement-house census of Boston was the work of the Massachusetts bureau of labor statistics last year, and the first installment of the results is embodied in the volume before us. As was to be expected, coming from this bureau, the work is both comprehensive and thorough, and the report an exceedingly valuable one. The investigation was not limited to tenement houses in the narrow sense in which the term is commonly used, but was made to include every "place of residence hired or leased."

The subject is divided into three sections : (1) Tenements, Rooms and Rents ; (2) Sanitary Condition of Tenements ; (3) Place of Birth, Occupations, *etc.* of Residents in Tenement Houses. Only the first section is printed in this volume.

The present report gives the number of tenements to a house and the number of rooms to a tenement ; the number of families having specified numbers of rooms ; the population residing in said rooms by sexes ; whole number of rooms in all tenements considered, with the average number of persons to a room. These facts are presented in detail by precincts, with summaries by wards and a recapitulation for the whole city. Following this is a series of tables showing the rents paid for these tenements : first, the average monthly rent, according to the number of rooms ; second, the classified monthly rent — under \$5, 5 to 10, 10 to 15, *etc.* — classified according to number of rooms ; third, the number of families paying specified actual rent according to rooms. The customary "Analysis" of the tables completes the book. It is creditably clear though not very concise. The points brought out are of the utmost interest to the city and to civilization in general, although their full value will not be appreciated until the next report appears. It is only to be regretted that more cities have not made similar studies, that more complete comparisons might be possible, as those obtained from the United States census are not wholly satisfactory.

One of the first points of interest brought out by the "Analysis" is the influence of modern apartment houses upon the figures. Thus it happens that ward eleven, precinct one, the Back Bay district, one of the choicest residential portions of the city, shows the highest average number of persons to a rented house, *viz.*, 26.82 ; while the next greatest number, 17.81, is found in the slums at the North End, ward six, precinct four. The true condition of the population is

understood by comparing, not the number in a house, but the average number of persons in a room. In the Back Bay district this average is 0.52, while at the North End it is 1.63. Expressed a little differently, in one district two rooms are occupied by one person, while in the other district every two rooms have to accommodate three persons. Even this, however, is not in itself an indication of over-crowding; for it is quite possible for two persons to live very comfortably in one room if they take their meals elsewhere. This is well illustrated in Boston, where 1053 families, comprising 2067 persons, live in tenements of one room, but a large proportion of them were found to be man and wife, who were out at work during the day and did not eat their meals in their rooms. This class, however, constitutes only a very small portion of the population—less than one per cent. As the tenements increase in size (number of rooms) the average number of persons to a room decreases. Tenements of four rooms, which house one-quarter of the population, are found on the average to contain families of between four and five (4.15) persons. As the family will usually consist of man, wife and two or three children, presumably young, a flat with kitchen, sitting-room and two bed-rooms cannot be considered over-crowded, of course leaving the size of rooms and sanitary condition out of the question. As the number of rooms increases the condition seems to improve. Tenements of five rooms and over have on the average less than one person to the room; and since more than one-half the population live in this class of tenements, we cannot from the average for the city predicate an over-crowded condition. It must be remembered, however, that an average implies the same divergence above it as below, and while the average for the whole city is quite satisfactory, there are some congested quarters. This is clearly brought out in the report, and ward six, which is taken as an illustration, is shown to be considerably crowded. Four per cent of the population of this ward live in tenements of one room, and the average number of persons to each such room is 2.67. One-quarter of the population lives in two-room apartments, with an average to the room of 1.87. Thirty per cent have three-room flats and average three to every two rooms. When we reach the four-room standard we find 19.45 per cent of the population, in families of five and six, huddled together in what was before supposed to be a kitchen, sitting-room and two bed-rooms.

The report is an interesting study in social science, and from the statistical standpoint it is an excellent piece of work.

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